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ZANE GREY'S

PICTURIZED EDITION

THUNDER MOUNTAIN





The FREIGHT WAGON

THE EARLY DAY FREIGHT OUTFITS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE SETTLING OF THE WEST AND OXEN, MULES, AND STRONG DRAFT HORSES WERE GREATLY IN DEMAND. THE OLD TIME BULLWHACKERS HAD NO USE FOR HORSES OR MULES AND THE HORSE OR MULE SKINNERS WOULD HAVE NO PART OF OXEN. HOWEVER, ALL KINDS OF TEAMS HAD THEIR PLACE. IT WAS GENERALLY CONCEDED THAT ONE BULL TEAM COULD OUTPULL FOUR HORSES OR MULES. IN SITU OF THEIR SLOW PLODGING GAIT, THIS WAS CONSIDERED A VERY IMPORTANT POINT IN THEIR FAVOR, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE GOING GOT TOUGH. THE BULLS WERE BEST IN MUD, DEEP SAND, ON STEEP GRADES OR WHEN IT WAS NECESSARY TO FORD RIVERS OR CREEKS. INDIANS DID NOT OFTEN

BOTHER THE OX TEAMS. BUFFALO WERE PLENTIFUL AND THE INDIANS CONSIDERED THEIR MEAT SUPERIOR TO THE OXEN. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ATTACKED

THE HORSE OR MULE OUTFITS IN ORDER TO GAIN POSSESSION OF THE ANIMALS. IF SPEED WAS IMPORTANT, HORSES OR MULES WERE FAR BETTER, AS THEY WERE ABLE TO TRAVEL MUCH FASTER. THE BULLWHACKER, OR

DRIVER WALKED AND HANDLED HIS TEAM WITH A LONG PROD POLE. THE AVERAGE SIX-OR EIGHT HORSE AND MULE TEAM WAS DRIVEN WITH LINES, BUT THE LONG OUTFITS HAVING TEN, TWELVE, OR EVEN TWENTY HEAD OF STOCK WERE DRIVEN WITH A JERK

LINE. THIS WAS A LONG ROPE EXTENDING FROM THE NEAR WHEEL HORSE THROUGH RINGS ON THE HAMES OF EACH TEAM AND DOWN TO THE BIT RING ON THE NEAR LEAD HORSE. THE DRIVER RODE THE NEAR WHEEL HORSE AND HANDLED THE TEAM WITH THE JERK LINE. THE FAMOUS "TWENTY-MULE TEAMS" WERE USED TO HAUL BOARDS OUT OF DEATH VALLEY. AS LATE AS 1918 JERK LINE TEAMS WERE USED IN THE CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS FOR HAULING FREIGHT AND LOGS FROM THE SAWMILLS IN THE REDWOOD FORESTS.



THUNDER MOUNTAIN

GRIM, FOREBODING,
AND MYSTERIOUS.

by Zane Grey



IT WAS AT THUNDER MOUNTAIN THAT THE
FUGITIVE SHEPHERD INDIANS PITCHED
CAMP.



THE BRAVES REPORT TO
THE CHIEF



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AN AGED INDIAN APPROACHES
THE GROUP



THE DAY WORE ON. DUSK FELL AND THE SILENT
NIGHT CAME. BUT TOMAHMO DID NOT SLEEP.

THEN--FROM THE VERY HEART OF THE GREAT MOUNTAIN
CAME A LOW RUMBLE AS OF DISTANT THUNDER.



TOMANNO IS WARNED-- THE MOUNTAIN MOVES WHEN THE SUN SHINES. WE LEAVE THUNDER MOUNTAIN



YEARS LATER, LONG AFTER TOMANNO HAD GONE TO JOIN HIS FOREFATHERS, THREE ADVENTURING PROSPECTORS--BROTHERS BY THE NAME OF EMERSON, ARRIVED AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN SO APPROPRIATELY CALLED BY TOMANNO-- THUNDER MOUNTAIN.



RECKON IT'S THE PLACE ALL RIGHT-- THAT OLD SHEEPSTEER INDIAN GAVE US A CLEAR HUNCH, LISTEN!



YEP THIS IS IT! THE OLD INDIAN SAID IT WAS A MOUNTAIN THAT TALKED.

NOW THAT WE HAVE FOUND THE PLACE-- ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND THE GOLD.



A LOW RUMBLE OF THUNDER FILLED THE AIR



THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOUND THE BROTHERS BUSILY ENBAED--THE TWO OLDER BROTHERS, SAM AND JAKE IN PROSPECTING FOR GOLD--THE YOUNGEST BROTHER, LEE, NICKNAMED KALISPEL BY THE FIRST OUTFIT HE HAD EVER RIDDEN FOR IN MONTANA, IN HUNTING WILD GAME FOR THEIR VITTLES. THEN SUDDENLY IT HAPPENED-- A STRIKE



THE WISE AND MORE EXPERIENCED SAM PROPOSED A PLAN WHICH THE YOUNGER BROTHERS ACCEPTED. SAM WOULD REMAIN AT THUNDER MOUNTAIN AND GUARD THEIR CLAIM. JAKE WOULD TAKE THE QUARTS TO BOISE AND OBTAIN THE FINANCIAL BACKING NEEDED FOR A LARGE-SCALE MINING OPERATION. KALISPEL WOULD GO TO THE TOWN OF SALMON--PURCHASE ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES AND RETURN



**SALMON--
A BUSTLING
MINING
TOWN.**



I GUESS THIS IS AS GOOD
A PLACE AS ANY TO BUNK
FOR THE NIGHT.



**AFTER HAVING REGISTERED FOR THE
NIGHT, KAL WENT UP TO HIS ROOM.**



GET OUT--
OF HERE!

THAT WAS A GIRL'S
VOICE?



**KAL RUSHED TO THE ROOM FROM
WHENCE THE CRY CAME.**







WHO IS THE GUY I
RAPPED ON THE CHIN?

NAME IS CLIFF
BORDEN



WELL--- THEN CRAB BORDEN OUT OF
HERE AND WHEN HE COMES TO HIS
SENSES, TELL HIM TO STEER CLEAR
OF ME, RALISPEL EMBERSON.

WHEN KAL WENT BACK TOWARDS HIS ROOM, THE
YOUNG LADY WAS WAITING FOR HIM

MY NAME IS STONEY BLAIR
I WANT TO THANK YOU
FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

ONLY TOO HAPPY TO BE
OF ASSISTANCE TO
A LADY. GOOD
NIGHT, MISS
BLAIR.



THE NEXT MORNING KAL WAS UP
BRIGHT AND EARLY.

MORNIN', MISS BLAIR
HOPE YOU SLEPT
WELL.

THANKS TO
YOU, YES



YOU SAVED MY
DAUGHTER'S LIFE,
I CAN'T KNOW HOW
TO REPAY YOU

NOTHIN' AT
ALL--- IT
WAS MY
PLEASURE



YOU'RE AN EASTERNEE,
BLAIR--- WHAT
BRINGS YOU
OUT HERE?

MY WIFE DIED.
BUSINESS FAILED---
SO MY DAUGHTER
STONEY, AND I, CAME
OUT WEST FOR A
NEW START.





AT LUNCH BLAIR RECOUNTED TO KAL THE STORY OF HIS MISFORTUNE. THE PUROIT OF THE CULTURED EASTERNER COUPLED WITH KAL'S GROWING INTEREST IN HIS ATTRACTIVE DAUGHTER, LED KAL TO SUGGEST THAT THEY ACCOMPANY HIM ON HIS RETURN TO THUNDER MOUNTAIN. BLAIR'S CAUTION QUICKLY VANISHED AS KAL UNFOLDED THE PROSPECTS FOR THEM.



THE NEXT DAY THE PARTY OF THREE STARTED THEIR TRIP BACK TO THUNDER MOUNTAIN.

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS TRAVEL THE PARTY REACHED THE MIDDLE FORK RIVER.

THIS IS A DANGEROUS CROSSING, NOT STEEP ONLY THREE OR FOUR FEET OF SWIFT WATER OVER SLIPPERY ROCKS. BUT IF YOUR HORSE SLIPS— SOOD-BYE.

I'LL BE CAREFUL.









OH-- YOUR VALLEY
IS FULL OF PEOPLE

OUR DIGGINGS HAVE BEEN
DISCOVERED-- THE STAMPEDE
HAS BEGUN



I MUST FIND
SAMP

KAL RUSHED
DOWN THE HILL
AT BREAKNECK
SPEED.



WHERE'S MY BROTHER
-- SAM EMERSON?

SORRY, PARD--
NEVER HEARD
THE NAME



WHAT? SAM, MY
BROTHER JAKE, AND I
STRUCK A QUARTZ VEIN
HERE SEVERAL WEEKS
AGO--

AND KAL RELATED THE ENTIRE TALE
OF THEIR INITIAL DISCOVERY AND
THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS.



SON, RAND LEAVITT AND HIS
HERDSMAN, DELEACK, HAVE
STAKED THE ONLY QUARTZ
VEIN AROUND-- THEY'RE TWO
MEAN HOMES. SO BE
CAREFUL.

KAL
ABRUPTLY
WHEELED
AND RAGED
TOWARDS
SAM'S CLAIM.

HOPE --MY NAME'S
SELBACK--THE BOSS
IS DOWNSTREAM--
WHO ARE YOU?

ARE YOU
RABO LEAVITT?

I DON'T KNOW YOU
OR YOUR BROTHER

YOU SURE SAW
SAM WHEN YOU
HIT THIS VALLEY,
BECAUSE HE WAS
HERE ON THIS
CLAIM. HE FOUND
THIS QUARTZ.

I'M KALISPEL EMERSON
--BROTHER OF SAM.
WHERE IS SAM?

MAN ALIVE--
YOU'VE GONE
GOLD MAD--
START MOVING.

HOLD ON--
SELBACK?

IN A FLASH
KAL OWEN
AND FIRED

BUT SELBACK DID NOT HEED THE WARNING

MY NAME IS RAND LEAVITT
—WHAT'S THE IDEA OF
KILLING MY MAN, SELBACK?



THE POOL TRIED TO DRAW
HIS RIFLE ON ME AFTER
I WARNED HIM

WHO
ARE YOU?



I'M KALPPEL, EMERSON,
BROTHER OF SAM, THE
MAN YOU MADE AWAY
WITH AND WHOSE CLAIM
YOU JUMPED

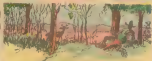


I NEVER HEARD OF YOU OR YOUR
BROTHER. THIS IS MY CLAIM AND
I COULD HAVE PROVED IT BY
SELBACK, THE MAN YOU JUST
KILLED



KAL SENSED THAT LEAVITT'S DETERMINED
STAND AND COULDN'T CARRY CONVICTION TO
THE CROWD AND DECIDED THAT IF HE FORCED
THE ISSUE, NOW HE MIGHT LOSE FOREVER ANY
CHANCE OF REGAINING THE MINE

YOU LIE, LEAVITT! I'M LETTING YOU OFF
NOW BECAUSE MEN LIKE YOU HANG YOUR-
SELVES. YOU'RE CROOKED AND I CALL ON
ALL HERE TO WITNESS MY SWORD AGAINST
YOU AND MY OATH THAT I'LL LIVE TO
PROVE IT



DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS KAL WAS LIKE A LOST
SOUL. HE SOUGHT OUT THE SOLITUDE OF THE FORESTS,
AND SPENT HOURS LYING IN A CLUMP OF TREES LIKE
A DEER MORTALLY WOUNDED AND SEEKING TO DIE
ALONE. THE STARK REALIZATION THAT HE HAD LOST
HIS BROTHER SAM, WHO HAD BEEN FIFTEEN MORE LIKE A
FATHER TO HIM, HAD DEVASTATED HIM COMPLETELY. IT WAS
A HARDSHIP AND BITTER KAL HAD COME OUT OF
THE FORESTS SEVERAL DAYS LATER AND WENT
BACK INTO THE MINING COMMUNITY WITH THE BURNED
PURPOSE OF RIGHTING THE WRONG THAT HAD BEEN
DONE HIM.

KAL, MY BOY--
WHERE HAVE
YOU BEEN?

TRYING TO
FORGET



PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER--
YOU'VE GOT A BIG JOB ON YOUR
HANDS. I BELIEVE IN YOU BUT YOU
MUST REALIZE THAT LEAVITT
STANDS HIGH WITH THE MINERS
THEY'VE ELECTED HIM JUDGE
OF THE CAMP



AND SYDNEY?

SORRY TO SAY THAT
SYDNEY IS STRANGELY
FASCINATED BY LEAVITT.
AND HE HAS BEEN PAYING
COURT TO HER



WELL-- THAT FINISHES HER FOR
ME-- LOOKS LIKE LEAVITT HAS
ALL THE ACES IN HIS HAND



DURING THE NEXT SIX WEEKS, THE TOWN ON THUNDER MOUNTAIN GREW BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS. CAFE'S, LOOSING HOUSES, DANCE HALLS BARRICK THE MAIN STREET OF THE TOWN WHICH SOON BECAME KNOWN AS THUNDER CITY. KAL SIDED HIS TIME, WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR THE DAY WHEN HIS BROTHER JAKE WOULD RETURN TO BACK UP HIS CLAIM. HE KEPT PRETTY MUCH TO HIMSELF, AND SAWE FOR THE REAL AND UNSELFISH FRIENDSHIP OF A PRETTY GOLDEN-HAIRRED DANCE HALL GIRL NAMED NUGGET, WHOSE CHANCE ACQUAINTANCE HE HAD MADE IN SALMON. HE BOTHERED LITTLE WITH ANY OF THE INHABITANTS OF THUNDER CITY



THEN ON A
SULTRY JUNE
DAY, A GAUNT,
HAGGARD
JAKE EMERSON
RETURNED TO
THUNDER
MOUNTAIN.



JAKE'S MEETING WITH KAL WAS A TOUCHING ONE.

AS HE AND JAKE MADE THEIR WAY TO HIS ARBORE, KAL TOLD HIM OF LEAVITT'S TREACHERY AND THE PROBABLE FATE OF THEIR BROTHER. KAL JAKE EXPLAINED HIS DELAY IN RETURNING BY RELATING HOW HE HAD BEEN BRUTALLY ATTACKED, HIS QUARTZ STOLEN, AND HE LEFT FOR DEAD BY A MAN WHOM KAL RECOGNIZED AS LEAVITT'S HENCHMAN, THE LATE BULL SELBACK. AT FIRST JAKE WANTED TO SEEK OUT LEAVITT AND FORCE THE TRUTH OUT OF HIM. BUT THEN HE DECIDED TO PRESS HIS CLAIM AGAINST THE LEAVITT MINING CO.



BORDEN'S DANCE HALL WAS SELECTED AS THE COURTROOM FOR THE TRIAL. THE LAW OF THE MINING CAMP WAS THAT IN CASE OF A DISPUTE TO THE OWNERSHIP OF A CLAIM, THE MINERS LISTENING WOULD CAST VOTES TO DECIDE WHO WAS RIGHT.



THE CASE BETWEEN JAKE EMERSON, CLAIMANT, AND LEAVITT MINING CO. DEFENDANT, HAS BEGUN. EMERSON-- STATE YOUR CASE.



MY TWO BROTHERS AND I ARRIVED AT THUNDER VALLEY --

ALL EYES WERE ON JAKE EMERSON-- AND HE PROCEEDED TO TELL HIS STORY. . .

AND THAT'S THE STORY, MEN--- LEAVITT
HERE MUST HAVE KILLED MY BROTHER
AND JUMPED OUR CLAIM



AS JAKE UNFOLDED HIS TALE, LEAVITT'S
FACE GREW PURPLE.

ALL YOU HAVE HEARD IS A PAK OF LIES
-- I WAS HERE FIRST-- THE CLAIM IS
MINE. NOW VOTE?



LEAVITT JUMPED TO HIS FEET.



THE RESULT WAS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION
AS JAKE AND KAL WELL KNEW--

THE BALLOTING
COMPLETE--
THE VOTE WAS
ANNOUNCED

LEAVITT MINING-- 88
AND EMERSON-- 22



YOU WIN AS YOU KNEW
YOU WOULD--BUT YOU
HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST
OF THIS DEAL



AFTER THE TRIAL, JAKE LOCATED A CLAIM AND
WENT TO WORK, THINKING ALWAYS OF REVENGE.
KAL CONTINUED TO ROAM AROUND TOWN,
DETERMINED TO PROVE LEAVITT'S GUILT.





THE GAMBLER BEGAN DEALING THE CARDS.



THE GAMBLER'S FACE TURNED ASHEN GRAY.



THE DEATH CARD.





AS KAL AND BLAIR WALKED DOWN THE ROAD, THE CONVERSATION CONTINUED TO SYDNEY.

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED SYDNEY

I DID, ONCE -- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE LEAVITT IS TOP MAN NOW



YES, SHE CAN'T BELIEVE THE THINGS YOU SAY ABOUT HIM ARE TRUE, BUT I DO, KAL

THANKS -- I'M GLAD ONE OF THE BLAIRS IS IN MY CORNER, GOOD-NIGHT



A FEW DAYS LATER, AN EXCITED BLAIR CONFRONTED KAL

I'M WIRED OUT -- TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM MY CABIN



I KEPT THE MONEY IN A LARGE LEATHER WALLET

WHOM DO YOU SUSPECT?



WELL, LEAVITT IS THE ONLY VISITOR TO OUR PLACE AND I WOULD NOT PUT IT PAST HIM



AFTER WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME -- STEALING TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IS NOTHING





THAT NIGHT KAL LEARNED THAT LEAVITT HAD COME TO TOWN. HE DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE HIS DANGEROUS MISSION.

STEALTHILY AND WITH CAT-LIKE SURENESS, KAL APPROACHED THE CABIN.



KAL QUICKLY RAN TO THE CABIN AND OPENED A WINDOW. SILENTLY HE ENTERED THE ROOM.



KAL MADE AN INTENSIVE SEARCH OF THE ROOM



A LOOSE BOARD IN THE FLOOR INDICATED THAT HIS SEARCH HAD COME TO AN END.



TAKING AN OLD BLANKET, KAL QUICKLY PLACED ALL OF LEAVITT'S ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH IN IT. HE THEN REPLACED THE BOARDS OVER THE HOLE, TAKING CARE TO LEAVE THE ROOM IN THE SAME CONDITION THAT HE FOUND IT. HE TWISTED THE ENDS OF THE BLANKET AND CARRIED IT TO THE WINDOW





-- BUT THE GUARD STILL SLEPT SOUNDLY AS KAL STOLE AWAY.



THE NEXT MORNING KAL WAS RESTLESS. AT ANY MOMENT HE EXPECTED TO SEE A POSSE OF MEN WITH LEAVITT AT THEIR HEAD. BUT WHEN HE SAW LEAVITT WITH SYDNEY, COOL AND UNDISTURBED, HE REALIZED THAT LEAVITT HAD NOT DISCOVERED HIS LOSS OR MISSED THE BLANKET. HIS LUCK HAD FINALLY CHANGED.

KAL THEN SOUGHT OUT BLAIR.

MY WALLET AND \$10,000-- YOU DID GET IT FOR ME, WAS IT LEAVITT?

YES, HE HAD STOLEN IT.



HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, KAL.

JUST KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS-- I'VE GOT MY REASONS.



THEIR CONVERSATION WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN EXCITED MINER.

KAL, THEY JUST KILLED YOUR FRIEND, DICK SLOAN.

WHERE?



WHY, DICK DIDN'T HAVE AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD-- WHO DID IT?

ONE OF THEM WAS A FELLOW NAMED, MAO-- STUDDY RED BEARD WITH A PATCH ABOVE HIS LEFT EAR.



KAL RECOILED-- DICK SLOAN WAS AN EARNEST AND QUIET YOUNG MAN OF WHOM KAL HAD GROWN VERY FOND.



A TALL MAN CAME UP TO KAL.



YOUR MAN'S BEEN
TIPTOP OFF--
HE'S WAITING
INSIDE DEAD-
EYE-- WITH
HIS GANG!



NO NEED FOR
YOU NOW



DRIVE MAG AND HIS
PARDS OUT OR I'LL
COME IN AND
BRING THEM
OUT.





A FEW SECONDS PASSED AND THEN
SUDDENLY THE CAFE DOORS FLUNG OPEN



GET OUT AND TAKE
YOUR MEDICINE--- I'M
NOT HARBORING YOU



THE THREE MEN
DASHED MADLY
DOWN THE STREET.
NAD, THE GULFWIT
RAL WAS LOOKING
FOR IN THE LEAD



HALT! OR
I'LL SHOOT



WHEAT!

HIS WARNING WENT
UNHEeded. A QUICK
SUCCESSION OF SHOTS
FELLED THE TRIO.

I MUST MAKE
MAC TALK.



MAC, WHO PUT
YOU UP TO
THIS?



I'LL TALK -- IT WAS
BORDEN...



SO IT WAS BORDEN
AGAIN. KAL THOUGHT BACK
TO THE NIGHT WHEN HE
ROUTED BORDEN FROM
STONEY'S ROOM. SINCE
THAT TIME, BORDEN,
ALTHOUGH LEAVITT'S
PARTNER, HAD STEERED
CLEAR OF KAL. KAL KNEW
THAT HE WOULD NOT REST
UNTIL HE HAD AVENGED
HIS FRIEND'S DEATH. HE
ALSO REALIZED THAT IN
TANGLING WITH BORDEN,
HE WOULD HAVE LEAVITT
TORN DOWN WITH -- THE
SHOWDOWN WAS AT
HAND.



GO GET HIM, KAL --
WE'RE WITH YOU.



THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE --
KAL WAS LOOKING FOR BORDEN AND THE
CREED OF THE FRONTIER WOULD FORCE
BORDEN TO MEET HIM.



KAL APPROACHED BORDEN'S DANCE HALL.

USE THAT RIFLE, BORDEN,
AND WE'LL LYNNCH YOU
COME OUT AND FIGHT
LIKE A MAN



THE
DANGER

BORDEN QUICKLY REALIZED THAT THE CROWD
WAS IN AN UGLY MOOD



THE CROWD
WAITED IN
SILENCE FOR
BORDEN TO
COME OUT



THEN SUDDENLY BORDEN CHARGED OUT
OF THE DOORWAY



KAL STARTED TO
STRIDE FORWARD



A FLURRY OF SHOTS BY BORDEN MISSED.
KAL HAD YET TO FIRE A SHOT.



THEN KAL
STOPPED. HE
AIMED HIS
REVOLVER—
FROZE IN HIS
AIM AND PULLED
THE TRIGGER.



THE SHOT WENT STRAIGHT TO ITS MARK.



KAL GAVE 'EM
MORE 'N AN EVEN
BREAK.



WHY MUGGET?
YOU ARE CRYING.

AS KAL WALKED AWAY, A MUCH AGITATED
MUGGET STOPPED HIM.



OH, KAL— I WAS
SO AFRAID —
I THOUGHT HE
MIGHT KILL YOU.



WHEN ALL THIS IS CLEARED UP -- THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO TELL YOU

AS RAL LOOKED INTO MUGSET'S EYES, HE REALIZED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT MUGSET LOVED HIM AND HIS INFATUATION FOR SYDNEY HAD BLINDED HIM TO HIS REAL AND TRUE AFFECTION FOR MUGSET



BUT RIGHT NOW YOU'D BETTER GET HOME -- I'M EXPECTING A PECK OF TROUBLE TO BREAK LOOSE AND YOU MIGHT GET HURT



IF YOU SAY SO -- BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL



LEAVING IT WASTED NO TIME THE VERY NEXT DAY HE ORGANIZED A SO-CALLED VIGILANTE COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF ALL HIS OWN HERCHOIDS WITH HIMSELF AT ITS HEAD IT WAS AN OPEN SECRET THAT ITS ONLY PURPOSE WAS TO DISPOSE OF RAL DESPITE THE WARNINGS OF HIS BROTHER, JAKE, RAL ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE BY GOING TO TOWN THAT SAME DAY



AS SOON AS RAL ENTERED THE TOWN HE NOTICED AN UNUSUAL STILLNESS IN THE AIR

THEN SUDDENLY --



PUT YOUR HANDS UP

UP THEY ARE



GRAB HIS GUNS!



START WALKING, EMERSON!



KAL WAS QUICKLY MARCHED TO LEAVITT'S CABIN, WHERE LEAVITT WAS GREETING HIMSELF SURROUNDED BY ALL HIS VILLAGES AND COHORTS



WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS, LEAVITT?



YOU'LL FIND OUT — —
YOU'LL HAVE — —



IT'S THE MOUNTAIN
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

LEAVITT'S OUTCRY WAS INTERRUPTED BY A GROWING RUMBLE THAT CAME FROM THE DEPTHS OF THUNDER MOUNTAIN. AT THE SAME TIME KAL FELT THE SOLID GROUND SHAKING UNDER HIS FEET

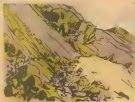


KAL TURNED AROUND AND SAW LEAVITT RUNNING TOWARDS THE CABIN. HE THEN REALIZED THAT LEAVITT WAS UNAWARE THAT HIS HIDING PLACE NO LONGER CONTAINED HIS ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.



BUT LEAVITT NEEDED NO ONE.

AS LEAVITT ENTERED THE CABIN, A SMARTID SLICE MOVED DOWN ON THE CABIN.



THE CABIN COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW



AS IF IN MOCKERY OF THE LITTLENES OF MEN, NATURE HAD PELED THE DOOM WHICH TOMMYMO, THE SHEPHEATER, HAD PREDICTED. IN SO DOING, THUNDER MOUNTAIN HAD AVENGED A GRIEVOUS WRONG AND BALANCED THE SCALES OF JUSTICE



THE CONTINUED INTENSE RUMBLING FROM THUNDER MOUNTAIN CONVINCED THE INHABITANTS THAT THUNDER CITY WOULD SOON SHARE THE FATE OF LEAVITT AND HIS CABIN--THE STAMPEDE SOON STARTED--OUT OF THUNDER VALLEY

IN ONE OF THE WAGONS,

WHERE'S JAKE?

HE'S RIDING AHEAD TO GET THE PARSON READY



PARSON?
OH, HAL--
I'M--

YES, NUGGET--FROM NOW ON--YOU'RE GOING TO BE MRS. KALISPEL EMERSON





The BUCKBOARD

THIS RIDER ORIGINATED IN THE NEW ENGLAND AND MIDDLE STATES, BUT WAS QUICKLY ADOPTED BY THE WEST FOR USE AS A LIGHT UTILITY OUTFIT, AND IS NOW THOUGHT OF AS A STRICTLY WESTERN BUGGY. IT SERVED THE SAME PURPOSE ON THE OLD-TIME CONY OUTFIT AS THE PICKUP TRUCK AND STATION WAGON DOES ON THE MODERN CATTLE RANCH.

ARE LARGE AND THE AXLES HIGH OFF THE GROUND WHICH IS A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE WHEN BEING DRIVEN OVER LOW BRUSH OR THROUGH ROCKY COUNTRY. IT IS UNUSUALLY HANDY FOR HAULING A FEW SPOOLS OF BARB WIRE, SOME FENCE POSTS, OR A BARREL OF WATER TO SOME OUTLYING COW CAMP. MANY OLD-TIME COWMEN WHO HAD BEEN STOVE-UP BY FALLING HORSES OR HAD BEEN BUCKED OFF AND WERE NO LONGER ABLE TO SPEND LONG HOURS IN THE SADDLE, RODE THE RANGE AND LOOKED AFTER THE OPERATION OF THEIR RANCHES FROM THE SEAT OF A BUCKBOARD. IT COULD BE DRIVEN ALMOST ANYWHERE A MAN WOULD LIKELY TRAVEL ON HORSEBACK.



THE BUCKBOARD IS MADE OF A SERIES OF FLEXIBLE PLANKS ATTACHED SOLIDLY TO THE REAR AXLE AND TO A CROSSBAR IN FRONT. THE CROSSBAR IS ATTACHED TO THE FRONT AXLE BY A KING-BOLT WHICH ALLOWS THE FRONT WHEELS TO TURN. THE ONLY SPRINGS ON THIS RIDER ARE UNDER THE SEAT. IT IS A PRETTY ROUGH RIDING OUTFIT BUT IS VERY LIGHT AND, WHEN HOOKED TO A TEAM OF TOUGH HORSES, CAN BE DRIVEN OVER EXTREMELY RUGGED COUNTRY. THE WHEELS



